



900 B.C.

Sasanian Helmet

This bronze and iron helmet was worn by soldiers in the revival of the Iranian empire, specifically those personally chosen officers under Ardašir I. To say these soldiers were efficient is an understatement: they protected the ruler as he restored Achaemenid military organizations; retained Parthian cavalry; and defended Iran against Central Asiatic nomads and Roman armies all while protecting their heads during battle.

The helmet was fitted to each soldier, with a nose plate and a small opening to see so arrows that rained down on the army wouldn't penetrate the thick cover.



200 A.D.

Secutor's Helmet

The Secutors of Ancient Roman times wore a helmet that covered their entire face, leaving just two small eye-holes for visibility. This was for a good reason — Secutors were specifically trained to fight a trident-armed gladiator. The helmet had a fin-like crest (to avoid getting caught in any nets) and was made of thick metal. Because of the weight and lack of space in the helmet, Secutors had breath constrictions and had to win quickly, or else collapse of exhaustion. While this helmet was not for the claustrophobic, no doubt it saved lives in gladiator combat.



300 A.D.

Horned Helmet

Contrary to popular belief, the horned helmet was never adorned by Vikings. Germanic soldiers were among the first to 'horn' their heads in battle, specifically when fighting with bowmen in the Battle of the Milvian Bridge on October 28th in the year 312 A.D. The helmets were hand-sculpted usually from iron. While the horns didn't serve any use in battle, their purpose was to give the soldiers an imposing look while being attacked by arrows or swords.



616 A.D.

Sutton Hoo

The story behind this helmet actually starts in 1939, when it was discovered during an excavation that is considered one of the most magnificent archeological finds in England. The ceremonial helmet, along with armor, a lyre and silver from the Eastern Roman Empire, were found in a burial chamber of a ship. The person buried is widely believed to be Rædwald, a powerful East Anglian leader thought of as pivotal in the establishment of Christian rule in England. The headpiece, made out of six steel and bronze plates, was based on a Roman parade-helmet design used in European war combat during the Middle Ages.



Kabuto

1000 A.D.

Samurais didn't wear their hearts on their sleeves, but on their helmets. Intricate shapes were built on top of their headpieces depicting their adored forms of Japanese mythology including fish, cow horns, the god of longevity, places of worship or twirls of their favored silk. Their crowns were protected by a strong metal-plated bowl, with a suspended series of plates adorned with the crest of the clan to protect the neck. The reason behind the ornate style of the helmet? The samurais wanted their presence known and felt on the battlefield.